ORIGIN/ACTION

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

AIRGRAM

Pol 33-1 Jordan River

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TO : Department of State 1965 FEB 4 AM 11 05

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ANALYSIS & DISTRIBUTION BRANCH

FROM : Amembassy TEL AVIV

DATE: February 3, 1965

SUBJECT: JORDAN WATERS: French and US Reactions

REF :

At a recent reception for the departing French Counselor, we heard a discussion between Director Y. Zeev SHEK of the Foreign Ministry's Western European Department and Arel GINNAI, YEDIOT's foreign affairs analyst, on great power reactions to Arab announcements on diversion projects.

The two Israelis characterized as very significant a January 19 AFP item which they said was transmitted from Paris only to the Near East. It attributed to official French circles the assurance that France would continue to aid Israel in the military and scientific fields. Shek and Ginnai thought this dispatch was "obviously" inspired by the Elysee, not by the Quai.

Shek, who said he was PriMin SHARETT's Political Secretary during the last stage of the Eric Johnston negotiations, contrasted this "well-timed French message to the Arabs" with the "strange silence" of the USG. He related the following story which is making the rounds here.

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In a Jewish town in Eastern Europe, a delegation of bakers called on the rabbi, complaining that one of their colleagues had ordered modern baking machinery. They would be driven out of business unless the rabbi did something. The rabbi told them not to worry; the machinery would never arrive.

Decontrolled following 2 years.

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Drafted by: POL:SEPalmer, Jr.:mk:1/31/65

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A few months later the delegation returned. The machinery had been delivered. The rabbi advised them to relax; the machines would never work.

A few weeks later the delegation, highly exercised, informed the rabbi that their mechanized competitor was baking all sorts of bread and pastries which would go on sale the next day. The rabbi assured them these new products would never sell.

A few nights later an angry group of ex-bakers woke the rabbi in the middle of the night. They had been bankrupted by competition from the baker with the machines. Why had the rabbi led them astray? Why had he kept telling them not to worry? The rabbi: "My children, what did you expect me to say?"

MORAL:

Don't cast machine-produced bread on Jordan Waters.

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FOR THE AMBASSADOR

Stephen E. Palmer, Jr.
First Secretary of Embassy